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David Dow—Lawyer, Teacher, Scholar

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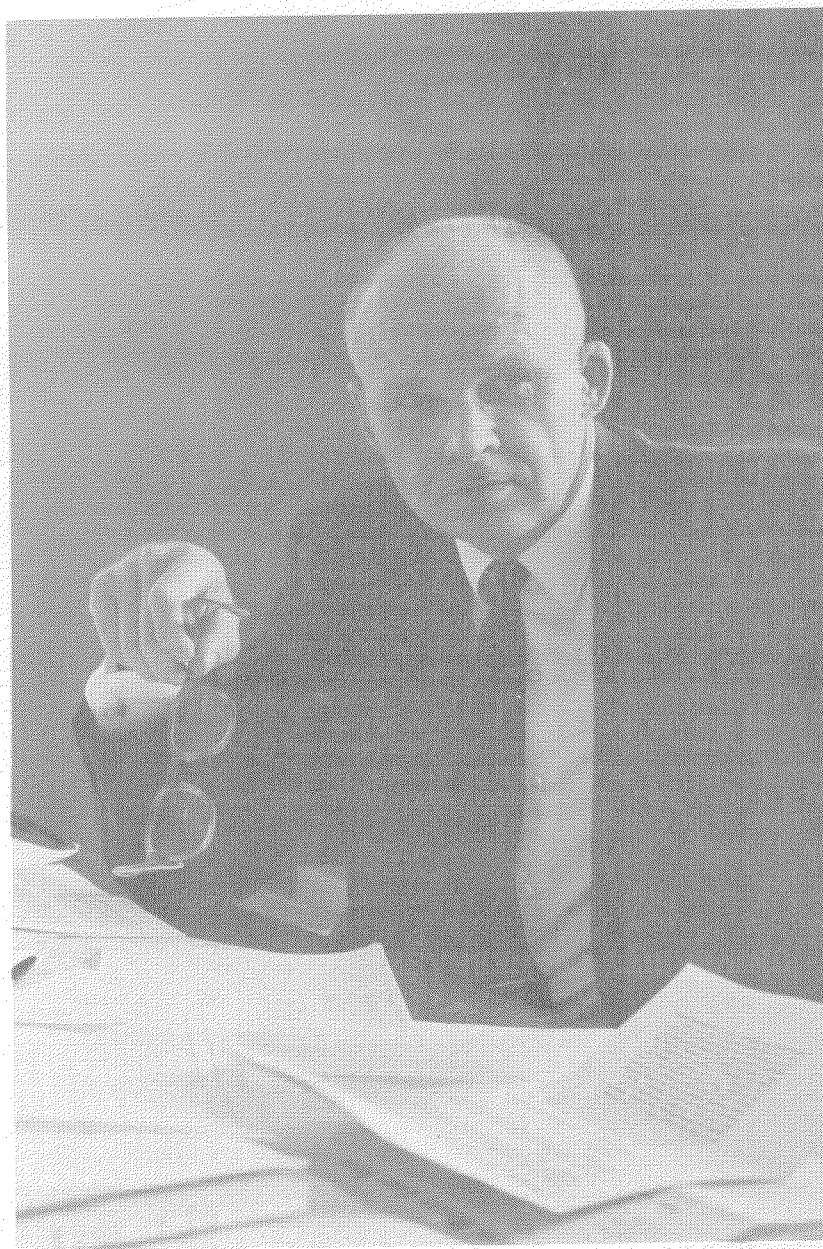
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The Nebraska Law Review staff dedicates this issue of the Review to David Dow, in appreciation of his thirty-two years of service to the law college as professor and dean.



DAVID DOW

By Henry M. Grether*

David Dow—Lawyer, Teacher, Scholar

*I have a high opinion of lawyers.
They are better to work with
Or play with or fight with
Or drink with
Than most other varieties
Of mankind.*

—Harrison Tweed

The quotation above is appropriate because it expresses the kind of feelings David Dow holds for lawyers and law students. It, also, is appropriate and meaningful that the Nebraska Law Review has chosen to add another honor to the heap of honors bestowed upon David Dow, lawyer, scholar, dean and professor. Dedication of this issue of the Law Review is a permanent and enduring testimonial, which is highly relevant to Professor Dow's more than thirty years of distinguished service while a member of the faculty of the University of Nebraska College of Law. This dedication is not only a fitting honor but also is a highly personal expression to David Dow of the regard and affection which his colleagues, students and bench and bar have for him.

His retirement marks an era for the College of Law. He became a member of the faculty in 1946 when the College re-opened after being closed for several years during World War II. The College was looking for someone who could provide an educationally useful blend of the practical and the theoretical instruction for law students. David Dow was selected because he possessed the needed qualities. He developed a trial practice course which carried out this policy. These practical, and yet scholarly characteristics, were evident in his teaching of evidence, ethics, contracts and other subjects. Prior to devoting his talents to academia he had been a trial lawyer in the New York City law firm of Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft and had been Assistant to the Director of the Los Alamos Laboratories.

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Since becoming a member of the faculty team which re-opened the Law College after World War II, David Dow has been a distinguished and loved teacher to a whole generation of lawyers. The excellence of this teacher has inspired many others to reach out for similar achievement. His inspiration and influence, while immeasurable, are very great. One can count the seeds in an apple, but one cannot count the apples in a seed. So is it with the countless lives David Dow has helped. As a human being and a teacher, he has brought warmth, compassion, and an intense participation in law and law reform to the lives of his fellow man.

Besides teaching and writing there are other important dimensions to David Dow's record of serving the cause of legal education and justice in America. An attempt to detail even a brief description of his more important contributions would become tedious and too lengthy due to their multitude. That does not mean, however, that we are not aware of them or have forgotten his significant contributions while Dean of the Law College—nor his unselfish contribution of long hours of scholarly work to accomplish worthwhile results as a member of such committees as the Nebraska Supreme Court Commission on Jury Instructions, the Nebraska Supreme Court Commission on Evidence Law, the Nebraska Constitutional Revision Commission, the American Bar Association Constitutional Convention Study Committee and his directorships on such important bodies as the American Judicature Society, the American Academy of Judicial Education and the Lincoln Legal Services, Inc. Mohammed said, "A man's true wealth is the good he does in this world." By Mohammed's measure David Dow is very wealthy.

Finally, I cannot resist a short personal note. I came on the faculty as a non-tenured person while Dave was a tenured faculty member. After I became a tenured member of the faculty, Dave was my Dean. His activities while Dean paved the way and made possible many of the things completed during my administration as Dean. To me, Dave is an inspiration as well as a colleague and a friend. He never rests with mediocrity and he patterns his life to the attainment of excellence. His success is demonstrable by his many achievements. This issue of the Nebraska Law Review can stand as an example.